

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for detecting the presence of a prescribed heat exchanger, such as (2), ~~in particular~~ a catalytically active radiator, in a motor vehicle are performed ~~, comprising the method steps~~, during operation of the motor vehicle. The ~~, of observing a~~ temperature of a heat-exchanger medium is observed together with ~~and at the same time observing~~ further current operationally relevant parameters ~~[[ (21) ]]~~ of the motor vehicle for a prespecified time window. An (tf) ~~, detecting an~~ expected temperature gradient over time of the ~~temperature of the~~ heat-exchanger medium is detected, as well as ~~, detecting~~ the current temperature gradient over time of the temperature of the heat-exchanger medium. The ~~, and detecting the~~ presence of a prescribed heat exchanger is detected ~~(2)~~ by taking into account the expected temperature gradient and the current temperature gradient, ~~, and also an apparatus for this purpose.~~

(Fig. 2)